

Message Text

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FOR SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652 XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, EG, SY, JO, US

SUBJECT: TALK WITH PRIME MINISTER ABOUT EGYPTIAN VISIT AND SYRIAN
RELATIONS

1. THERE FOLLOWS THE HIGHLIGHTS OF MY DISCUSSION WITH
PRIME MINISTER RIFAI ON HIS RECENT TRIP TO EGYPT AND ON
SYRIAN ATTITUDES.

2. RIFAI MET WITH SADAT FOR OVER TWO HOURS OCTOBER 19.
SADAT WONDERED WHAT ASAD WAS UP TO. RIFAI REPLIED THAT
ASAD IS ASKING THE SAME OF YOU(SADAT) SADAT WOULD NOT
DISCUSS DETAILS OF SINAI AGREEMENT. HE PUT GREAT STRESS
ON SOME FOLLOW-ON STEP ON GOLAN FOR ASAD. SAID US HAD
ALWAYS KEPT ITS PROMISES TO HIM AND US HAD PROMISED TO
DO SOMETHING ON GOLAN. RIFAI DISCUSSED JORDANIAN PROPOSAL
OF GETTING SOMETHING FOR ASAD ON GOLAN WHICH HE CAN'T
REFUSE OR AT LEAST REFUSE TO TALK ABOUT. HE SAID SADAT AGREED ON
THIS PROCESS. HE BELIEVES SADAT WILL PLACE A MAJOR FOCUS ON HIS
TRIP TO US ON EFFORT TO GET SOMETHING FOR ASAD. SADAT WAS CRUDE AND
SCATHING IN HIS COMMENTS ABOUT THE PLO. HE PUT EMPHASIS
ON NEED FOR KING HUSSEIN TO GET WEST BANK BACK AND REVERSAL
OF RABAT DECISION. HE SAID TO DO THIS JORDANIANS AND
PALESTINIANS MUST COME TOGETHER AND SYRIAN CAN HELP.
1976 SHOULD BE THE YEAR OF THE ARABS TO GET TOGETHER WHEN US
ELECTIONS PUT DAMPER ON PEACE ACTIVITIES.

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3. RIFAI BELIEVES SYRIAN WILL CONTINUE THE UNDOF MANDATE ON THE GOLAN BUT WILL PERHAPS NEED SOME FACE-SAVING ARRANGEMENT SUCH AS A WALDHEIM TRIP TO THE AREA. RIFAI ALSO BELIEVES THAT SYRIAN WILL ACCEPT DISCUSSIONS OF A FEW KILOMETERS ON THE GOLAN BUT TO GET THIS GOING US WILL NEED TO PRESENT A SUBSTANTIALLY INTERESTING ISREALI PROPOSAL TO ASAD. PROGRESS ON THE GOLAN CANNOT WAIT UNTIL AFTER US ELECTIONS, ACCORDING TO RIFAI. ASAD'S TRIP TO MOSCOW WAS MAINLY TO GET WEAPONS AND ASAD SEEMS TO BE BERY PLEASED WITH WHAT SOVIETS GAVE HIM, ALTHOUGH JORDANIANS SHORT ON DETAILS.

PICKERING

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